

STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM

RHODE ISLAND GROWTH PRIORITIES For 2000 and BEYOND

**SURVEY REPORT
FEBRUARY 2000**

**URI TELEVISED TOWN MEETING SERIES
In conjunction with the
Rhode Island Department of Administration**

Sponsored by BankBoston

*Conducted by
The Research Center in Business and Economics
College of Business Administration
University of Rhode Island*

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Research Center in Business and Economics under the direction of Carol F. Surprenant, Director and Associate Professor of Marketing. Special thanks are due to Kuan P. Chiang, research assistant who directed the data collection and analysis and to Thomas Pascarella and John McLaughlin who provided supervision. Also to the numerous undergraduate students who participated in collecting the data. Denise Early, Associate Director of the Research Center, provided editorial assistance.

Members of the Statewide Planning Program, RI Department of Administration provided input to question development and did preliminary testing of the questionnaire. Grace Beiser and Kathleen Crawley were especially helpful in this process. Comments on early drafts of the questionnaire were also provided by Scott Wolf of Grow Smart Smart Rhode Island.

The Research Center is grateful for the support of Dennis Moore, Corporate and Community Affairs Director at BankBoston, who provided the funding for this study. We would also like to acknowledge the continuing support of the director of the URI Town Meeting Series, Bob Sauber.

This report was commissioned as part of the "Growth Challenges for the New Millennium - Balancing the Options" program produced by the University of Rhode Island and broadcast live on February 28, 2000

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The following results were obtained using a telephone survey methodology. A total of 452 Rhode Islanders responded to a series of questions addressing growth concerns for the coming five years, factors that are important in choosing where to live, and land use priorities. Key findings of the survey include:

Concerns for the next five years:

- The four items generating the greatest level of concern for the next five years were: protecting drinking water; cleaning Narragansett Bay; keeping taxes down; and improving the quality of life.
- Whether a respondent lived in Newport or Providence, was affluent or poor, old or young, clean water was of the highest concern. No significant differences were found among Rhode Islanders on any demographic variables.
- Three primary clusters of concerns were identified. In order of priority, Rhode Islanders were most concerned with environmental issues, followed by economic growth, and transportation. Environmental issues were twice as important as either economic growth or transportation.

What is important in choosing where to live:

- The single most important factor in choosing where to live was good schools, followed by public water and sewer, and a sense of neighborhood and community.
- Three primary clusters of concern were identified in this category. Rhode Islanders were most concerned with community (parks and recreation, sense of neighborhood, ability to walk to schools and services), space (large lot and open space), and a single item- good schools.
- Significant differences were found among Rhode Islanders in what was important in choosing where to live:
 - Renters were more concerned with convenient transportation than were homeowners.
 - Women rated neighborhood, schools, and a short commute to work more highly than men did.
 - Those with more education were more concerned with being near a bus line while those with lower education were more concerned with good schools, a sense of neighborhood, and being able to walk to schools and shops.
 - Single respondents rated convenient transportation as more important than did those who were married.
 - Urban residents rated access to parks and recreation, good schools, and public transportation higher than rural residents. Urban residents also valued the

ability to walk to shops, a short commute to work, and a sense of neighborhood highly. Rural residents rated having a large lot as more important.

- Region of the state had a large impact on the priorities respondents placed on choosing where to live. Providence residents valued access to parks and recreation, public water and sewers, easy access to highways and buses, a short commute to work, and the ability to walk to schools and shops as more important than did respondents in other parts of the state.

Land use priorities:

Land use priorities were measured by a series of 12 questions. Responses ranged from (1) strongly agree to (5) strongly disagree.

- Rhode Islanders subscribed heavily to the Yankee philosophy of reuse. The two items generating the highest agreement related to redevelopment and reuse of older cities and buildings.
- In general, the average Rhode Islander wants to limit new development (but not too much) and protect open space (more than they want to limit development), but they don't think people should be able to build wherever they wish, and disagree with the statement, *there is too much attention paid to protecting open space... .*

Priorities given costs:

- Rhode Islanders said they were willing to pay the bill for their priorities. Four items in the questionnaire checked if respondents continued to agree when it was clear that this would require the use of tax dollars or could involve inconvenience. Respondents, however, seemed more willing to bear financial costs through taxes than to bear personal costs such as increasing housing density.

The best and the worst:

Four open-ended questions were included in the questionnaire to determine what people thought were the best and worst things about their community and about Rhode Island in general.

- When asked what they liked most about their community, people said they valued "quiet" closely followed by community/neighborhood.
- When asked what they liked least about their community, respondents most frequently cited roads and traffic. This was followed by overbuilding/too many people, taxes, and congestion.
- When asked what they liked most about the state, beaches and the ocean topped the list, followed by scenery, size, and a sense of community. People mentioned politics, taxes, roads, corruption, and schools when asked what they liked least about the state.

METHODOLOGY

A survey of Rhode Island residents' growth priorities was conducted during the week of January 24-28. A total of 1380 residents were contacted and 452 usable responses were obtained, yielding a response rate of 34%.

The purpose of the survey was to gain a better understanding of Rhode Islanders' concerns about future growth in the State and to assess the kinds of communities they value. The survey consisted of three major sections: concerns for planning over the next five years; factors that are important in choosing where to live; and land use priorities.

In reading the results of this survey, one should be aware that inferences drawn about the opinion of the entire population of Rhode Island can differ from sample results due to the peculiarities of the sample obtained. In theory, in 19 cases out of 20, binary results based on samples like the present one would differ by no more than 4.9 percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained by interviewing all Rhode Island adults.

In addition to the possible error arising from sample selection procedures, other sources of error, although difficult to estimate, are also possible. Such sources of error include biases resulting from the nature of the information required or the method of asking particular questions. While such sources of error cannot be completely eliminated in any study, care in the design and execution of the survey can minimize their influence.

The reader should also be aware of certain limitations of telephone surveys. To be effective, telephone surveys can not be very long; this time constraint precludes the possibility of probing into respondents' opinions and the depth of their knowledge.

RESULTS

Sample Demographics

Sixty-two percent of the sample was female, 57% married, and over two-thirds (69%) owned their own home. The largest group reported living in an urban area (36%), however all types of living areas were represented, with 22% in towns or villages, 28% in suburban regions, and 14% in rural areas. Thirty-two percent were high school graduates and 63% had some college or more. All age groups were represented with twenty percent of the sample under 30, and 12% over 70. Please refer to Appendix 2 for demographic information for Rhode Island.

CONCERNS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The first section of the questionnaire was designed to assess how concerned Rhode Islanders are with a number of growth issues using a three point scale where **1 indicated a high level of concern and 3 indicated no concern**. Sixteen items were given, including issues relating to economic well-being, traffic, development, the environment and land use, and public transportation. Appendix 1 contains of all items in the questionnaire.

In interpreting these results, the reader should be aware that the scale contains no neutral point. Thus, scores close to 1 indicate high levels of concern, scores close to 2 indicate concern, and scores close to 3 indicate no concern. The scores reported here are means or averages across the entire sample. For most items, differences of .05 or more are statistically significant given sample size and variance. However, in terms of practical significance, the safest interpretation is in terms of order rather than the statistical differences between any particular two items.

The four items generating the greatest level of concern were: protecting drinking water, cleaning Narragansett Bay, keeping taxes down, and improving the quality of life. Table 1 gives all items listed in order of concern. Lower numbers indicate higher concern.

TABLE 1

CONCERNS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Area of concern	Score
Protecting sources of drinking water	1.27
Keeping taxes down	1.31
Cleaning Narragansett Bay	1.33
Improving quality of life	1.38
Protecting natural and historic resources	1.44
Condition of existing roads and highways	1.46
Affordable housing	1.52
Bringing more business to Rhode Island	1.54
Having enough good jobs	1.57
Growing traffic congestion	1.61
Protecting the character of communities	1.64
Reducing auto emissions	1.65
Ugly development	1.71
Strip developments	1.75
Loss of open space to business and housing	1.75
Good public transportation	1.85

While all items generated some concern, clearly, the issues of greatest concern to most Rhode Islanders focused on environmental issues and taxes, with economic and esthetic issues of much lower concern. Interestingly, though growing traffic congestion was nearly at the midpoint of the concern, good public transportation was the area of lowest concern to the sample. These results indicate that, while there is no statistically significant difference between protecting drinking water and keeping taxes down, there is a significant difference between keeping taxes down and improving quality of life, for example. Moreover, all items score well below 2 indicating that the average level of concern for all items was between “very concerned” and “somewhat concerned”.

Concerns were cross classified by all demographic variables in the questionnaire, including gender, age, income, region, and education. There were no significant differences among different groupings of Rhode Islanders in their assessment of areas of concern. Whether a respondent lived in Newport or Providence, was affluent or poor, old or young, clean drinking water was of the highest concern.

In order to identify concern clusters, a technique known as factor analysis was used to determine if some questions seemed to go together. This technique groups items based on the extent to which they vary together. If, for example, a respondent answered 1 to clean drinking water, 1 to cleaning Narragansett Bay, and 3 to both strip development and ugly development, this would constitute two clusters. The technique then looks at the clusters rather than the original items to see how much of the concern expressed by a respondent can be accounted for with a particular cluster of items.

Three primary clusters of items were identified. The first cluster, and the most important one, consisted of environmental issues including water quality, protection of natural and historic areas, and reducing auto emissions. Included in this cluster was the item relating to quality of life. This set of items accounted for over one-fourth of the total concern expressed by respondents. The second cluster consisted of concerns related to the economy, including bringing in business, having good jobs, keeping taxes down, and development. This set of items accounted for an additional ten percent of the concern expressed. Transportation issues constituted the third cluster, accounting for about eight percent of the concern expressed. Items here included traffic congestion and public transportation.

FACTORS IN CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

The most important factor in choosing where to live was good schools. The least important factors for Rhode Islanders were being able to walk to schools, shops, and services, and being near a bus line. Easy access to highways, on the other hand, ranked fifth in importance. It would seem that most Rhode Islanders are accustomed to driving to destinations and that being able to drive conveniently is much more important than walking or using public transportation.

These items were measured on a scale of 1 to 3 where **1 indicated very important, 2 indicated somewhat important, and 3 indicated not at all important.** It should be noted that even though the differences appear small, they are significant since the scale only contained three points. As was true with the concern scale, this scale also contained no neutral point. Thus, averages closer to 1 are more important and answers closer to 3 are not important to the sample as a whole. For most items, differences of .04 are statistically significant, but again the best interpretation is to assess the order of the effects rather than the differences between any particular two items.

TABLE 2
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN CHOOSING
WHERE TO LIVE

Where to Live	Score
Good schools	1.25
Public water and sewer	1.48
A real sense of neighborhood	1.52
Parks/recreation nearby	1.53
Easy access to highways	1.78
Short commute to work	1.88
Neighborhood with scenic character	1.88
One or more acres of land	1.98
Lots of visible open space	1.98
Walk to shops and school	2.02
Near a bus line	2.11

We found significant differences among Rhode Islanders when it came to what is important in choosing where to live. Providence residents differed significantly from the rest of the state in their priorities, as did Southern Rhode Islanders. Significant differences in priorities were also found between those who identified their residence as urban versus rural. Education, gender, and marital status also had an impact on priorities,

as did whether the respondent was a home owner. All group differences reported here are statistically significant.

It must be emphasized that these differences are in relative importance only, that is, in the numbers of people who rated an item as very important rather than somewhat important. This is not intended to indicate that home owners, for example, do not care about having a short commute or that men do not care about good schools.

Renters reported that being near a bus line, being able to walk to schools and services, and having a short commute were much more important than did those who own their own home. Table 3 gives the percentage within each group that rated an item very important.

TABLE 3
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OWNERS AND RENTERS
CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

Factor Considered Very Important	Home Owners	Renters
Near a bus line	26%	41%
Able to walk to schools, shops	24%	44%
Short commute to work	35%	47%

Gender was also important in having a short commute to work, as was a real sense of neighborhood and good schools. Women were much more concerned with all of these factors in choosing a place to live.

TABLE 4
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN
CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

Factor Considered Very Important	Men	Women
Short commute to work	32%	42%
Real sense of neighborhood	48%	64%
Good schools	79%	86%

Education level was divided into two categories, some college or less, and college graduate or more. Five differences emerged as shown in table 5. Having public water, a

sense of neighborhood, good schools, and being able to walk to schools and shops were more important to those with lower education levels, while being near a bus line was more important for those with higher levels of education.

TABLE 5
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL LEVELS
CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

Factor Considered Very Important	Some college or less	College degree or more
Having public water and sewer	69%	57%
Real sense of neighborhood	62%	49%
Good schools	87%	78%
Able to walk to schools/shops	37%	19%
Near a bus line	36%	51%

Marital status also affected choice. Those who were single found convenient transportation and mobility more important than did those who were married.

TABLE 6
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SINGLE AND MARRIED
CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

Factor Considered Very Important	Single	Married
Easy access to highways	46%	34%
Near a bus line	39%	23%
Able to walk to schools/shops	37%	24%

By far, the greatest differences in important factors were found among those who classified themselves as urban versus rural, and by place of residence. Convenient transportation and good schools were more important to urban residents, while having a lot of land surrounding the house was more important to rural residents. Clearly, respondents have chosen the environment in which they live to reflect their priorities.

TABLE 7
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL
CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

Factor Considered Very Important	Urban	Rural
Parks or recreation nearby	58%	51%
Real sense of neighborhood	62%	51%
Good schools	87%	78%
Near a bus line	36%	24%
Able to walk to schools/shops	36%	22%
Short commute to work	40%	36%
A house with a large lot	27%	39%

Respondents also showed different priorities depending on the region of the State in which they live. Responses were grouped into four broadly defined regions: Providence itself, Northern RI and Providence suburbs, Southern RI, and East Bay. While this classification scheme has some obvious deficiencies in creating subsets of respondents with similar characteristics, the limitations of sample size dictated a four region grouping and at least three of the groups: Southern RI, East Bay, and Providence, are generally considered to exhibit regional differences and to be relatively homogeneous.

Four items showed clear regional differences: public water and sewer; proximity to recreation; easy access to highways; closeness to bus lines; and being able to walk to services.

Being close to parks and recreation was most important to Providence residents. Approximately 50% of residents in the rest of the state rated this item as very important, however, over three-fourths of Providence residents gave this a very important rating in choosing where to live. Public water and sewers was more important to residents of Southern RI, while both Providence and Northern RI residents rated easy access to highways as very important more often than did those in Southern RI or the East Bay. Being near a bus line was less important to Southern RI residents than to others in the state. Only 16% of Southern Rhode Islanders rated this as very important. Being able to walk to shops and school, and a short commute was most important to Providence residents.

TABLE 8
DIFFERENCES AMONG REGIONS
CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

Factor Considered Very Important	PROV- IDENCE	NORTH- ERN RI	SOUTH- ERN RI	EAST BAY
Near parks or recreation	77%	54%	48%	55%
Public water and sewer	70%	70%	52%	68%
Easy access to highways	59%	40%	31%	34%
Near a bus line	52%	33%	16%	32%
Able to walk to schools/shops	52%	32%	19%	23%
Short commute to work	52%	35%	40%	38%

As was done with concerns, items used to measure importance in choosing where to live were grouped using factor analysis. Three sets of items emerged: community, space, and education. Items grouped into community were most important, consisting of parks and recreation, sense of neighborhood, and ability to walk to schools and services. Together this accounted for more than one-fourth of the differences in importance. Space accounted for another fourteen percent consisting of open land and a large house lot. The third factor actually consisted of the single item, good schools. By itself, this item constituted eleven percent of the differences in importance scores when choosing where to live.

LAND USE PRIORITIES

Land use priorities were measured by a series of 12 questions. **Responses ranged from (1) strongly agree to (5) strongly disagree. Low numbers indicate greater agreement, high numbers indicate disagreement with a statement.** Unlike the other scales, this one did have a neutral point, 3. In reading the average scores reported here, keep in mind that averages between 1 and 2.8 indicate agreement, averages from 2.8 to 3.2 indicate neutrality, and averages greater than 3.2 indicate disagreement. Because of the greater range of the scale, differences of .1 are necessary for statistical significance.

Rhode Islanders subscribed heavily to the Yankee philosophy of reuse. The two items generating the highest agreement related to redevelopment and reuse of older cities and old buildings. Protection of the environment, though not significantly different from redevelopment of abandoned buildings, was third, followed by limitations on development. Items relating to encouraging new development and ignoring open space needs generated the least support among those questioned.

While the average scores on limiting development tended toward agreement, it is clear that many of these items fell very close to the neutral point. This does not indicate that Rhode Islanders are neutral toward development and economic growth, but that some agree and some disagree. The average Rhode Islander wants to limit new development (but not too much) and protect open space (more than they want to limit development), but they don't think people should be able to build wherever they wish and do not think we pay too much attention to open space protection.

TABLE 9
LAND USE PRIORITIES

LAND USE	Score
Reuse existing buildings in older cities	1.73
Redevelop abandoned buildings	1.94
Support bond issues that protect open space and natural resources	1.95
Require new business to meet landscaping standards	2.02
Open space is disappearing too fast	2.14
Limit new development	2.51
Too much new development	2.74
Encourage new development	2.91
Restriction on development hurts the economy	2.92
Promote new development mixing residential, retail, and office uses	2.94
Build wherever people wish	3.33
Too much attention to open space protection	3.49

Rhode Islanders said they were willing to pay the bill for their priorities. Four items in the questionnaire checked if respondents continued to agree when it was clear that this would require the use of tax dollars or could involve inconvenience. Respondents, however, seemed more willing to bear financial costs through taxes than to bear personal costs such as increasing housing density.

TABLE 10
PRIORITIES GIVEN COSTS

Priorities	Score
Use tax money to improve older communities even if this means shifting funds from wealthier communities	2.36
Try to keep working farms in RI even if taxpayers have to pay more	2.55
Increase open space even if taxpayers have to pay more	2.79
Try to protect open space and farms even if this means allowing more houses in my neighborhood	2.81

Agreement on land use priorities showed no significant differences across all demographic variables. Regardless of age, gender, or place of residence, Rhode Islanders were consistent in their-land use priorities.

Clustering of items showed three groups of items in land-use priorities. The first set of items represented open space priorities consisting of support for bond issues to preserve open space and agreement that open space was disappearing too fast. This represented nearly nineteen percent of the differences in overall priorities. A second group of items represented autonomy and independence. This consisted of items such as building wherever one wished and promoting new development, and accounted for thirteen percent of the priority differences. The third group represented preservation, accounting for fifteen percent, and including items such as using tax money to improve open space.

THE BEST AND THE WORST

Four open-ended questions were included in the questionnaire to determine what people thought were the best and worst things about their community and about Rhode Island in general. Quality of life issues were most often cited as the things people liked best about their community. Quiet environments were cited most often as the thing people liked best about where they lived. This was closely followed by a sense of community and neighborhood. Table 11 gives a listing of the things people said they liked best about the

community in which they live, together with the number of times this factor was mentioned.

**TABLE 11
BEST THINGS ABOUT
MY COMMUNITY**

ITEM	FREQUENCY
Quiet	74
Community/neighborhood	72
Location	49
Beach/ocean	46
Schools	41
Size	35
People	19
Open space/recreation	19
Low crime/safety	15
Clean	11
Public Services	10

When it comes to the things people say they like least about their community, quality of life issues are primary, although taxes rate high on the list. Interestingly, there were twenty-five respondents who indicated they liked everything about where they live. Table 12 gives a listing of the top things people didn't like about their community.

**TABLE 12
WORST THINGS ABOUT
MY COMMUNITY**

ITEM	FREQUENCY
Roads/traffic	70
Overbuilding/too many people	46
Taxes	36
Congestion	27
Neighborhood	22
Public services	18
Schools	16
Politics	16
Youth problems	12
Noise	7

Thinking about the state as a whole, there is considerably more agreement among respondents about what is best and what is worst. Overwhelmingly the beaches and the ocean rank at the top of the list as the best thing about Rhode Island. Similarly, the top

four things people like least about the state are politics, taxes, roads, and corruption. Tables 13 and 14 give the items people mentioned as their favorite and least favorite things about the Ocean State.

**TABLE 13
BEST THINGS ABOUT
RHODE ISLAND**

ITEM	FREQUENCY
Ocean/beaches	136
Beauty/scenery	51
Size	50
Community	19
Accessibility	13
History	12
Schools/University	11
Providence	9
Natural resource/open space/recreation	9

**TABLE 14
WORST THINGS ABOUT
RHODE ISLAND**

ITEM	FREQUENCY
Politics	42
Taxes	30
Roads/transportation	26
Corruption	24
Schools	9

Open-ended questions concerning the best and worst things about communities and the State revealed somewhat different orderings than were found in the initial questions about concerns over the next five years. One way to interpret this is as the difference between today and the future. Transportation problems are a persistent daily concern but are not what Rhode Islanders worry about for the future. It should also be noted that the open-ended responses coupled roads and traffic together as “worst things” about the community and the State. This includes the condition of roads which was not part of the concern question.

It should also be noted that well over 310 responses were received in answer to the “best things about Rhode Island” question (only items receiving more than 5 mentions are included in the table). Only a little more than 131 responses were received in response to the “worst things” question. It would seem that on the whole, residents are far more positive than negative about Rhode Island.

APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

RI Growth Priorities for 2000 and Beyond Draft Questionnaire

Interviewer Instructions:

Hello, my name is _____ and I am a student at URI. The Statewide Planning Program and BankBoston are sponsoring a study of how Rhode Islanders would like to see the state grow in the coming years and we would like to include your opinion. Your responses will be completely confidential. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes of your time. Is this a convenient time for you to answer a few questions?

Section 1 Concerns

When you think about RI today and in the next 5 years, how concerned are you with each of the following issues? Would you say you are

1) Very concerned 2) Somewhat concerned 3) Not concerned

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Growth in traffic congestion | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2. Having enough good jobs | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3. Having good public transportation (trains, buses, ferries, bike paths) | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4. The amount of open space lost to housing and business | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5. Strip development of stores along roads and highways | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6. Ugly development | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7. Affordable housing | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 8. Protecting sources of drinking water | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 9. Maintaining and improving our quality of life | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10. Bringing more business to RI | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 11. Keeping taxes down | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 12. Protecting natural and historic areas | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 13. Cleaning Narragansett Bay | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 14. Protecting community character | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 15. Conditions of existing roads and highways | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 16. Reducing auto emissions | | | |

Section 2 Factors in choosing where to live

In deciding where you would like to live, how important are each of the following things to you:

- | | 1) Very important | 2) Somewhat important | 3) Not important |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Having a short commute to work | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2. Having a house lot of one or more acres | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3. Having lots of open land visible from my house. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4. Being able to walk to schools, shops, services. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5. Being near a bus line | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6. Easy access to highways | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7. Good schools | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 8. Having a real sense of neighborhood. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 9. Having parks or recreation areas nearby | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10. Having public sewer and/or public water | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 11. Living in a neighborhood with scenic or historic character | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Section 3 Land Use Issues

For each of the following issues, please let me know how much you agree with each statement using the following scale: 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree, 6-not sure, no opinion

<u>1</u> Strongly Agree	<u>2</u> Agree	<u>3</u> Neither Agree nor Disagree	<u>4</u> Disagree	<u>5</u> Strongly Disagree	<u>6</u> Don't Know No Opinion
----------------------------	-------------------	--	----------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------------

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Our open space is disappearing too fast in Rhode Island. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2. Restrictions on development hurt our state's economy. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 3. Rhode Islanders should be able to build wherever they wish. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4. There is too much new development in my city or town. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5. We need more incentives for redeveloping abandoned mill and factory buildings. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6. There is too much attention paid to protecting open space in RI. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7. We should continue to support bond issues that protect open space and natural resources. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 8. We should dedicate more resources to reusing existing buildings in older cities. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 9. We should encourage new development in suburbs and rural areas. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 10. We should limit new development in suburbs and rural areas to those areas that are already developed. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 11. We should promote new development that mixes residential, retail, and office uses. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 12. We should require new businesses and subdivisions to meet architectural and landscaping standards. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 1. We should use tax money to improve older communities EVEN IF this requires shifting funds from wealthier communities to poorer ones. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 2. We should increase open space and recreation areas EVEN IF taxpayers have to pay more. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 3. We should try to keep working farms in Rhode Island EVEN IF taxpayers have to pay more. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |
| 4. We should try to protect open space and farms EVEN IF this means allowing more houses in my neighborhood. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 |

Section 5 Likes/Dislikes

1. What would you say is the best thing, the thing you most like, about the community where you live?

2. What would you say is the worst thing, the thing you like least, about the community where you live? _____

3. Thinking about the state as-a-whole, what are the one or two things you like best and the one or two things you like least?
 4. If you could live in any of the following types of places in Rhode Island, where would you most want to live? 1__city or urban 2__town or village 3__suburban 4__rural
-

Section 7 Demographics

Interviewers Read This Statement: In order to group your responses with those of other people like yourself, we would like to ask a few general questions. Of course, all of your responses in this questionnaire are completely confidential and will not be linked to you personally.

1. Which city or town do you live in? _____
2. Do you own or rent your home? Own____ Rent ____
3. What is your zip code?_____
4. How would you describe the place where you live? Would you say it is
 - 1__City or Urban
 - 2__Town or Village
 - 3__Suburban
 - 4__Rural
5. What is the last grade of school you completed?
 1. ____ high school graduate
 2. ____ some college or technical school
 3. ____ college graduate
 4. ____ post-graduate degree
 5. ____none of the above
6. Are you male or female? **Interviewers – Ask only if you are not sure.**
 - 1__Male
 - 2__Female

7. Please tell us which age group includes your age:

Under 30
30-39
40-49
50-59
60-69
70 and over

8. What is your marital status? Are you

1__single 2__married

9. How many children under 18 live with you?

1__none → GO TO **END**

2__one 3__two 4__three or more

10. How many pre-school children (under the age of 6) do you have?

1__none 2__one 3__two 4__three or more

END Thank you very much for your cooperation. The results of the poll will be discussed at a special TV Town Meeting on Land Use on February 28, from 7-8 p.m., carried by Cox Cable.

If person interviewed wants further information, inform them they can contact the RI Statewide Planning Program at 222-1220.

Appendix 2

Demographics for Rhode Island

As of 1990

Total population	1,003,464
Male	48%
Female	52%
Married persons	40%
Live in urban area	86%
Live in rural area	14%
Under 30	43%
Over 70	10.3%
High school graduates (only)	25%
Some college or degree	30.1%
Own home	64/7%